INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

EXCISE

CONFIDENTIAL

Action SS

Info

RR RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 28219 1671220
ZNY CCCCC
R 161205Z JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TORUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
RUHHHQA/CINCPAC FOR POLAD
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 28219

013677 1967 JUN 16 AM 9 34

LIMDIS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS TALKED WITH ASSEMBLY DEPUTY [redacted] EVENING JUNE 15; [redacted] OBSERVED THAT POLITICAL TEMPERATURE WAS GOING UP AND THAT MOST VIETNAME POLITICIANS NOW PRE-OCCUPIED WITH QUESTION OF FAIRNESS AND HONESTY OF FORTH-

PAGE 2 RIMJIR 28219 C O N F I D E N TI A L
COMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. [redacted] A SUPPORTER OF PRESI-DENT AL CANDIDATE TRAN VAN HUONG, MAINTAINED THAT IF THINGS CONTINU AT THEIR PRESENT RATE, ELECTIONS COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE FAIR. HOWEVER, HE AND OTHER SUPPORTERS OF HUONG PLAN TO GO AHEAD WITH ELECTION PREPARATIONS IN A SPIRIT OF FAIR PLAY AND IN THE HOPE THAT WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE THE PRESENT TREND CHANGES.

2. [redacted] REITERATED SOME OF THE GRIEVANCES WHICH HE HAS MENTIONED TO US BEFORE. HE ALLEGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF RELIEVING A NUMBER OF POLICE CHIEFS WHO ARE NOT LOYAL TO KY AND HE HAS HEARD THAT THREE DIRECOTRS GENERAL, SYMPATHETIC TO THE CANDIDACY OF TRAN VAN HUONG, WILL SOON BE REMOVED FROM THEIR POSITIONS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE REPUTED TO BE EFFECTIVE CIVIL SERVANTS. (HE MENTIONED NHUYEN VAN HAO OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK AND DUONG MONG AU, DIRECTOR OF THE HA TIEN CEMENT COMPANY.)

PAGE 3 RUMJ... 28219 C O N F I D E N T I A L
3. [redacted] WAS OBVIOUSLY ENCOURAGED BY GENERAL THIEU'S RECENT

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 12/7/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

DECLASSIFIED

REAFFIRMATION OF HIS CANDIDACY. HE PRAISED THIEU'S STATEMENTS, CHARACTERIZED THEM AS STATESMAN-LIKE AND A VIVID CONTRASTTO GENERAL KY'S RECENT REMARKS ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS PRESS CENSORSHIP. SAYS HE HOLDS NOTHING PERSONALLY AGAINST KY BUT BELIEVES THATTHE LATTER IS SURROUNDED BY VERY BAENADVISORS. HE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THIEU WAS NOW IN THE RACE TO STAY.

4. ASKED WHOM HE THOUGHT NOW MOST LIKELY TO WIN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THAT IF ELECTIONS FAIR AND FREE, WINNER WOULD BE EITHER SU" OR HUONG. HE ALSO THOUGHT THIEU WOULD OUTPOLL KY.

5. SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT ALL OF GENERAL KY'S MAJOR OPPONENTS HAD AGREED THAT IF, AS THE ELECTION DATE DRAWS NEAR, T APPEARS THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE HONEST, THEY WILLWITHDRAW THEIR CANDIDACIES JUST BEFORE ELECTION

DAY, LEAVING KY ALONE TO WIN THE RACE, RATHER THAN BE DEFEATED I A RIGGED ELECTION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT THIS TACTIC WOULD ONLY BE USED AS A LAST RESORT AND THAT UNTIL THAT TIME THE PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES WOULDPRESS AHEAD IN THE HOPE OF CLEAN ELECTION.
BUNKER

DECLASSIFIED